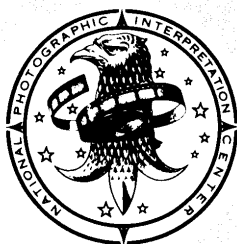


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(See inside cover)



NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

Summary Report

POSSIBLE ICBM PAYLOAD ACTIVITY AT ABANDONED SPACE LAUNCH SITE B2, TYURATAM MISSILE/SPACE TEST CENTER, USSR (TSR)

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DECEMBER 1977

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**POSSIBLE ICBM PAYLOAD ACTIVITY AT ABANDONED SPACE
LAUNCH SITE B2, TYURATAM MISSILE/SPACE TEST CENTER,
USSR (TSR)**

(TSR) Possible ICBM payload activity has been observed at abandoned space launch site B2 at the Tyuratam Missile/Space Test Center (MSTC), USSR, since early 1976, suggesting that this site has a possible ICBM payload training function. This activity included the construction of five shallow unidentified silo corings, the presence of several unidentified canisters, dollies and other pieces of equipment near the silo corings, and the presence of type I and type II warhead vans within the site security fence (Figures 1 and 2).

(TSR) Four unidentified silo corings under construction, each faced with concrete shoring blocks, were first seen [redacted] at launch site B2. Construction was also seen at the entrance to the old site control bunker. (Later the bunker was converted into a drive-in bunker.) On 12 July another silo coring was under construction and a 66- by 26-meter concrete apron had been constructed around all five silo corings. Construction on the silo corings was completed in July 1976. Since that time the openings have been covered with canvas, and no activity has been observed at the silos.

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(TSR) Four of the unidentified silo corings (one in either corner of the paved apron) are each [redacted]; the fifth coring in the center of the paved apron is approx- [redacted] Mensural analysis of the silos indicates that the five silo corings are probably no more than 4 meters deep.

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(TSR) In December 1976, a 3-meter-high board security fence was partially erected around the perimeter of the apron. The fence was not completed until August 1977. A smaller, 6-meter-high board enclosure was erected in June 1977 just inside the paved apron entrance (Figures 2 and 3). Since this smaller enclosure was erected a truck crane occasionally has been parked inside it.

(TSR) Since August 1977, at least two canisters, a round, unidentified object on a stand, several dollies, two small crates, and two trucks have been seen on the apron (Figure 3). One canister is approximately 5 meters long and 3 meters in diameter. The other canister is 3 by 2 meters. The round, unidentified object on a stand is within the 6-meter-high enclosure and is approximately 2 meters in diameter and 4 meters aboveground. The dollies [redacted] have a vertical beam with an attached possible winch mounted on the beam. This [redacted] By November, a rectangular shelter (Figure 3) had been erected along the perimeter board fence. The shelter covers several canisters.

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(TSR) Other new construction at the site since May 1976 has included a new road and drive-in entrance to the old site control bunker (Figure 1), a new roof on the support building, and a new security fence. The missile-ready bunker was not modified.

(TSR) A type I warhead van, a type II warhead van, a truck crane, and three cargo trucks are usually seen parked at the vehicle parking apron. Neither type of warhead van has been seen near the silo corings.

(TSR) There are similarities between the activity at launch site B2 and the activity at warhead training facilities at deployed ICBM complexes. For example, deployed payload training silos are usually less than 4 meters deep, only deep enough to accommodate the warhead or payload; the five unidentified silo corings at launch site B2 are also believed to be less than 4 meters deep. Also, board fences providing ground-level visual security are found around aprons at warhead storage bunkers at deployed ICBM complexes; a similar board fence is near the front of the missile ready bunker at launch site B2.

(TSR) The identification of small canisters, dollies, and other equipment and the presence of two types of warhead vans at launch site B2 also suggest that the site has an ICBM payload or warhead training function. However, neither the sizes and spacing of the silo corings nor the size of the canisters at launch site B2 can be associated with any known missile system.

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